

Agenda Item Number 10.a

Legal Counsel

Presenter: George Kloeppel

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

During the late spring and summer, LCOG conducted a solicitation process for Legal Counsel services. For decades, the firm of Harrang Long Gary Rudnick has served as the agency's Counsel. However, because of changes within the firm, it was decided that "testing the market" at this time would be in the public interest.

Eight local firms were specifically solicited for their interest—including Harrang Long. Five responded. Those responses were reviewed and, in several instances, additional information sought, in order to allow a fair comparison. Three of the five were selected for interviews—again, including Harrang Long. With the structured interviews completed and in consideration of the advice of the interview team, the firm of Speer Hoyt, LLC, the "Local Government Law Group" of Eugene, was selected.

Within LCOG's structure and practice, nearly all of the relationship between the organization and our Legal Counsel is at the staff level. That is, we do not ask Counsel to attend Board meetings nor to provide legal advice to the Board, except through the management staff. The obvious theoretical exception to this would occur in the case of a dispute between the Board and the Executive Director, in which case Counsel would serve as the Board's legal advisor.

I am confident that the new relationship with Ken Jones and his Local Government Law Group will be a positive one for LCOG. And at the same time, I want to acknowledge our appreciation for the many years of professional service that we have received from Harrang Long Gary Rudnick.